

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of:

TAKI TOOO
DCA-03-MM-035

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Monday,
June 16, 2003

INTERVIEW OF:

JON F. BROWN

PRESENT:

BILL WOODY

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. WOODY: Jon, could you give us your full
3 name?

4 MR. BROWN: It is Jon, J-O-N, middle initial
5 is F, that is for Frederick and then Brown,
6 B-R-O-W-N.

7 MR. WOODY: Okay. And we called your phone
8 number here at your business and --

9 MR. BROWN: It is the same here as it is at
10 home.

11 MR. WOODY: Okay.

12 MR. BROWN: It is

13 MR. WOODY:

14 MR. BROWN:

15 MR. WOODY:

16 MR. BROWN:

17 MR. WOODY:

18 And can we get -- this address here?

19 MR. BROWN: Yes. It is right there on the
20 card. No, it is not either.

21 . I don't write to me very often.

22 MR. WOODY: Right.

23 MR. BROWN:

24 And I don't even know what the zip is here, but
25 Linda does, she knows everything.

1 MR. WOODY: It looks like --

2 (Pause.)

3 LINDA: [REDACTED]

4 MR. WOODY: [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 Okay. Are you the -- yourself?

7 MR. BROWN: No.

8 MR. WOODY: Okay.

9 MR. BROWN: No.

10 MR. WOODY: And you operate the Carrie --

11 MR. BROWN: The Carrie --, yes.

12 MR. WOODY: How long have you been
13 operating?

14 MR. BROWN: I think I had my first license
15 in 1968.

16 MR. WOODY: Okay. When did you first start
17 with your maritime career?

18 MR. BROWN: 1967.

19 MR. WOODY: 1967. Okay. You were licensed
20 in 1968.

21 MR. BROWN: Deck hand on the Nancy --

22 MR. WOODY: And then the next year you are
23 licensed.

24 MR. BROWN: The next year I got a six pack
25 license and then the next year I think -- And then

1 after that I got my big license, it is for a 100
2 ton.

3 MR. WOODY: Okay. About what year was that,
4 you say the next year, you say '70.

5 MR. BROWN: Maybe '70, maybe sometime in
6 there.

7 MR. WOODY: Okay.

8 MR. BROWN: It was when you still had to go
9 to the Coast Guard station in Portland to get your
10 license.

11 MR. WOODY: Okay.

12 MR. BROWN: You know.

13 MR. WOODY: And when did you start off --

14 MR. BROWN: 1975, it was new, so I operated
15 it that year.

16 MR. WOODY: Okay.

17 MR. BROWN: 1975.

18 MR. WOODY: Okay.

19 MR. BROWN: It has exactly the same hull as
20 the Taki Too. It came out of the exact same mold,
21 built by Modu Tech(ph) in Takoma.

22 MR. WOODY: Okay. M-O-D-U --

23 MR. BROWN: Yes.

24 MR. WOODY: U?

25 MR. BROWN: Modu, yeah, U, T-E-C-H.

1 MR. WOODY: And that was Seattle.

2 MR. BROWN: No, Takoma.

3 MR. WOODY: I am sorry, Takoma.

4 MR. BROWN: That is Takoma.

5 MR. WOODY: All right. We would appreciate
6 it very much if you could just tell us what you saw
7 that day.

8 MR. BROWN: Okay. Well, let me back up.

9 MR. WOODY: Where you were --

10 MR. BROWN: Let me back up.

11 MR. WOODY: If you want to sketch it, we can
12 get a pen and paper.

13 MR. BROWN: No, no, no, it is okay. I know
14 what happened.

15 Anyway, I came down and we told our people
16 that we weren't going because we have a policy in
17 our office that any time it is in double digits, I
18 just don't go.

19 MR. WOODY: The wave height.

20 MR. BROWN: Whenever the wave, swell is in
21 double digits, our policy is that we don't go, but
22 that is our policy, okay, just what we do and it is
23 just, it has been, it is basically because I am a
24 chicken. I don't go when it is, when it is big like
25 that.

1 MR. WOODY: Okay.

2 MR. BROWN: There have been times when we
3 have big swells like that, and I might hold my
4 people until the bottom of low tide and then maybe
5 wait a couple of hours on the incoming tide and then
6 just fish them right out front. I have done that
7 many times.

8 MR. WOODY: All right.

9 MR. BROWN: So --

10 MR. WOODY: When you say right, you mean
11 beyond the bar or --

12 MR. BROWN: Beyond the whistle buoy, okay.

13 MR. WOODY: Okay.

14 MR. BROWN: There is a couple of reefs real
15 close here. I fish in those spots. I could just
16 about show them to you.

17 MR. WOODY: Okay.

18 (Pause.)

19 MR. BROWN: They are right in this area
20 here, you, guys. There is some reefs here and there
21 is some reefs here and there are some reefs here.
22 Really, really close, you know, you don't use a
23 whole lot of fuel and there are quite a fish here,
24 if you fish them long enough and you have the right
25 equipment, you can catch fish there, so. And that

1 is, we do that also.

2 MR. WOODY: Carrie Lynn, any other boat --

3 MR. BROWN: No.

4 MR. WOODY: The Carrie Lynn.

5 MR. BROWN: It is the only one that we run
6 out of this office. We have in the past run some
7 other boats, but our accountant asked us why, and we
8 couldn't give him a good reason, so, so, it was just
9 a headache, so, so with just one boat we can do just
10 about what we please. We run between 80 and 100
11 trips a year.

12 MR. WOODY: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: We start in May, go through
14 about the middle of September. And September is kind
15 of getting less and less all the time, because in
16 September we have some, some swell that comes in
17 here, it gets a little bigger than I want it to be
18 and cancel a lot of trips, and so.

19 Anyway, so, anyway I talked to my people
20 and told them, and these are people that I have many
21 times before, I just told them, hey, today wasn't
22 the day, that we would just reschedule you for
23 another day. And so, we got them out of here and
24 went across the street to have breakfast. And so,
25 when and I got my wife, and myself, and Joe, who had

1 also canceled and his deck hand, Kurt Coldstead. We
2 were over there having breakfast and we had his hand
3 held VHF, okay and we were kind of listening to what
4 the boats were doing, you know. And we, we heard
5 some conversations on the boats, you know, some
6 chatter going back and forth.

7 When we were finished eating, I got in my
8 pickup and I swung out here and Linda was just
9 coming across the street and I said, I am going to
10 go to Bar and just watch them get out. And then I
11 will come home right after that. We live in
12 Rockaway, okay.

13 MR. WOODY: Yes.

14 MR. BROWN: And so, I drove out there, and
15 the first two boats were gone, the Norwester was
16 already out and the Oakland Pilot, it was out when I
17 got there. And Bob on the D&D had, was just
18 starting out through there, okay. And he was just
19 kind of walling on his way out, you know, just kind
20 of going out through it like you do. You don't hit
21 that stuff hard. And I noticed that inside of him
22 there were, it looked a lot worse inside of him than
23 it did where he was when I first observed him. It
24 looked almost like half way decent, you know, and he
25 just kind of took his time, he never really hurried

1 and he was kind of meandered out over and over and
2 around, and then he was out. He didn't have hardly
3 any trouble at all. It looked pretty good.

4 MR. WOODY: Okay.

5 MR. BROWN: It was something I don't like to
6 do, but he did it just fine. And that boat that he
7 was in, is exactly like mine, too.

8 MR. WOODY: Okay.

9 MR. BROWN: Okay. Anyway, so, then Doug
10 started and I am going to need a piece of paper,
11 okay.

12 (Pause.)

13 MR. BROWN: And then Doug started, he, I was
14 up on the north jetty, like this, well, Tammi really
15 told it good in the briefing today, too. Anyway,
16 here is, here is the crumbled north jetty here and
17 here is the wash rock that used to be the end of the
18 south jetty, and this is where it breaks really good
19 here. And now it is shallowed in really bad here,
20 and here is the can and we used to be able to do
21 this, we used to be able to just kind of slingshot
22 down this way, along the south side and then just be
23 able to just cut south, as soon as you can see Twin
24 Rocks up here, you could turn south and you were
25 safe. There was no problem at all. It was a snap.

1 It was a piece of cake. And you could do it no
2 matter how hard it was running, because it just kind
3 of gave you a river to go down through there and
4 then bam you were safe. You can't do it anymore
5 because it is, it has gotten so shallow here, and it
6 is a half of mile, it is a half of mile of breakers
7 that break through there when it is like that. It
8 is just, it is just a dangerous place now, where it
9 used to be the safest place in the world. When that
10 jetty was first built we would be able to come up
11 from the south and if it was a northwest wind, and
12 just kind of come to high gear for awhile and just
13 watch what was coming and then just swing around
14 there and be in, you know.

15 MR. WOODY: Okay.

16 MR. BROWN: You can't do that anymore. We
17 don't have that safety valve anymore. It is not
18 there. And when it was first built, we could do the
19 same thing on the north. We could swing right
20 around the north jetty, and be in and not ever run
21 the ranges. Because here, here is the middle
22 grounds, and those middle grounds are just shallow,
23 shallow, dangerous places to be. I, on a real nice
24 day, I might come through there just to see how
25 shallow it is, you know, but.

1 Okay. Anyway, so here was the Taki Too, he
2 was about here when I saw him. He was just starting
3 out and he kind of came through the middle, and he
4 came, and he was just kind of picking his spots,
5 too, picking his spots, too. And the paper said
6 that he dumped right there, but he didn't dump
7 there. He didn't dump there at all. He continued
8 on, continued on, continued on and here I am back on
9 the jetty here, and there is a period of time when
10 they are from here to here that you can't see them.

11 MR. WOODY: Okay.

12 MR. BROWN: From where I am standing. But,
13 when he breaks out through there, I can see him, you
14 know, and he comes up out of the water, goes down
15 and comes up on another one. And then it looked
16 like there was, I don't know, maybe a 10 or 12
17 footer that he kind of up and nosed through, and he
18 kind of, I think he kind of throttled down on it,
19 but then it backed down and it kind of went
20 sideways, okay, and then he gave it some power and
21 then this other wave, this, I don't know where the
22 heck it came from. I know where it came from
23 really, but it was a big one. It was 12, 15 feet.
24 It was a monster. And it was like he was here when
25 it started and it just, he would roll kind of up in

1 that curl, and it just kept him just like that. And
2 Mick was, Mick was standing maybe here from me,
3 okay, just down the jetty just a ways. And I said,
4 they are over, they are over. And Mick just took
5 off running down the jetty. He, well, he had Tammi
6 aboard, he was just, he was just in a panic, and he
7 just started running towards the, towards the boat,
8 down the jetty.

9 MR. WOODY: Yes.

10 MR. BROWN: And I called my son, first, he
11 was home, okay, I called my son in Rockaway, okay,
12 and then I called 911, and then I called my wife,
13 okay. She was on her way home and I said, get back
14 here, get back here. Anyway, and then as soon as
15 she got back here, Jeff was here from Rockaway, and
16 he drove, he drove right, instead of into the
17 parking lot, he drove this way and right down on the
18 beach. Okay. And then he went and he found Tammi,
19 picked her up, put her in the back of his car, got
20 ahold of Linda Buell, and took off and took her
21 right to the hospital, immediately, okay.
22 And then he came back and he helped some more after
23 he got her to the hospital and back.

24 But, anyway, Linda called our daughter-in-
25 law and she brought blankets and things down. Mick

1 came back up and then he was out here, and one of my
2 other deck hands, Lance Fletcher, was his name, as
3 soon as it dumped, he went into the, onto the beach
4 and started to get as close to the surf as he could.

5 And I don't know how many people he pulled out of
6 the surf, but quite a number.

7 MR. WOODY: Yes.

8 MR. BROWN: Okay. And I mean, it just is
9 kind of a blur right now, but it was a horrendous
10 thing. And I have made that crossing thousands of
11 times, you, guys, literally thousands of times and I
12 know when I got to the point where that boat was, I
13 usually felt, hey, now I am safe. I am safe here.

14 MR. WOODY: Okay.

15 MR. BROWN: I am in a spot where everything
16 is okay. This isn't the spot where I am going to be
17 in any danger. Okay. But, there was, there was
18 danger there. And I don't know how much that has
19 filled in and I don't know whether he was in five or
20 six or seven fathoms of water, I don't know how deep
21 of water he was in. But, later in the day when the
22 47 was out here, he got into an area here, where I
23 hollered to one of the guys, I said, Coast Guard is
24 in trouble, they are really in trouble. They are
25 going to lose that boat, and he was sideways to it

1 and he finally got it, he had to be in two fathoms
2 of water, and he finally got up, flipped around and
3 carefully, carefully, carefully got a little
4 further, a little further, a little further and
5 finally he got out maybe in, or where he was bumping
6 anymore. And he took off and got back out where he
7 was safe. But, he was in a spot where I thought we
8 were going to lose a Coast Guard cutter and crew,
9 too.

10 So, it was a hellish day, you, guys. I
11 still, I am hoping that after my trip tomorrow, I
12 will be better. But, right now I am, I don't know
13 what it is, it is just kind of a sinking feeling,
14 you know, I felt the same way for a couple of days
15 after the planes hit the two towers, so, on 9/11.

16 MR. WOODY: Yes.

17 MR. BROWN: That same sinking feeling, you
18 know, just really a tragedy here on this Coast.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Have you taken
20 advantage of the counseling services that they have?

21 MR. BROWN: I, I, you know, I haven't. I --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You might consider
23 doing that.

24 MR. BROWN: I might consider that. I have
25 always felt strong, you, guys, I have always felt,

1 you know, I have, I have a wife I can talk to all
2 the time. It is not something that I hold in, you
3 know, and we just communicate a lot. And I think
4 that, sometimes that is as good counseling as you
5 get, you know. I am going to get over whatever,
6 whatever it is. Usually warm milk and crackers will
7 do it. Once I have a little bit of a hangover, I
8 can, I can think, well, I am going to get over this
9 in awhile, you know.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

11 MR. BROWN: But, yeah, it is, I have known
12 Doug and Sharon for a long, long, long time. As a
13 matter of fact, we spent some time down in Las
14 Veraciles(ph), down where they have their home in
15 Baha, we have spent some time down there with them
16 and awful, awful close knit group, the charter boat
17 people are. And it is a real tragedy. I don't
18 know what else I can tell you and I don't, I don't
19 know if I have said anything, but that is what I
20 saw. It is -- a lot of years doing this, I, do you
21 guys want to go fishing tomorrow or --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That was one of my
23 questions, what time are you going out?

24 MR. BROWN: We are leaving, we are going to
25 leave as close to five o'clock as I can leave.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How long are you out
2 there for?

3 MR. BROWN: We are going to be quick. We
4 are, I am hoping I have both of my deck hands. But -
5 -

6 MR. WOODY: You carry two deck hands?

7 MR. BROWN: A lot of times I do. But, it is
8 because they both love to fish. And what it is,
9 you, guys, this is, it is my son and another kid
10 that works with him and they are both, they are both
11 builders. They build, but they have got a schedule
12 that they can, they can arrange so that they can
13 fish. Right. And then they both come up and they
14 filet fish. They do the fileting here. Okay. I
15 clean the boat, they filet the fish. Linda cooks
16 the crabs, and, and bags the fish and in charge of
17 everything up here and it is, it is, as far as I am
18 concerned, on the Oregon Coast, anyplace that I have
19 seen in Alaska or anyplace in Mexico, you can't find
20 an operation any better than what we have right
21 here. This is better. And I mean, it is a \$70.00
22 trip. We throw out crab pots, we cook crabs for
23 them, we filet their fish. We kiss them on the
24 little cheeks, we want them back again and again and
25 again. And that is why I don't have any days off for

1 the next month or so. I think I get the fifth off
2 of July.

3 MR. WOODY: When I called your answering
4 machine it said that fishing is off, there is no
5 fishing or something like that.

6 MR. BROWN: What did you say?

7 MR. WOODY: The answering machine said the
8 fishing is off. It sounded like that.

9 MR. BROWN: But get it changed, Babe.

10 MRS. BROWN: (inaudible)

11 MR. WOODY: I called my -- I think so, I
12 think it was, yeah.

13 MR. BROWN: Was it [REDACTED]

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That sounds right.

15 MRS, BROWN: That sounds like it.

16 MR. BROWN: Is that your cell phone?

17 MR. WOODY: Sure.

18 MR. BROWN: Dial it. Will it answer here?

19 MR. WOODY: Oh, sure. Okay. You said --

20 (Pause.)

21 MR. WOODY: I will get and try it.

22 MR. BROWN: Okay.

23 MR. WOODY: But, it said the fishing is off.

24 MR. BROWN: Not --

25 MR. WOODY: I will check, I get the numbers,

1 maybe I got a bad number.

2 MR. BROWN: Okay.

3 MR. WOODY: I got it from information. I
4 asked for Carrie Lynn Charters and that is what I
5 came back with, so.

6 MR. BROWN: Okay.

7 MRS. BROWN: Did you dialed this morning?

8 MR. WOODY: Yeah, it was as late as noon.

9 MRS. BROWN: Oh, no, that would have been
10 the, I was sitting here, I would have answered. It
11 didn't ring here.

12 MR. WOODY: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: You got a different number.

14 MR. WOODY: Okay.

15 MR. BROWN: Anyway --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What is the
17 horsepower of your boat?

18 MR. BROWN: Mine is 330 horse.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Three hundred thirty
20 and was that the original engine or --

21 MR. BROWN: No.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

23 MR. BROWN: The original engine, 175.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wow.

25 MR. BROWN: It was a Perkins, okay. And

1 two, three --

2 MRS. BROWN: They called him Turtle 1.

3 MR. BROWN: Called them Turtle 1. I was the
4 slowest boat in the fleet, seven knots, max. Okay.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

6 MR. BROWN: Anyway, and we put a new engine
7 in three winters ago.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Three years ago.

9 MR. BROWN: We put a Cummings in, and we
10 went from 175 to 330. I went from, from a cruising
11 speed of seven to a cruising speed of 12 or 13.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what is maximum,
13 do you think?

14 MR. BROWN: I can do 20.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can do 20. And
16 with how many people? What are you allowed to carry
17 now?

18 MR. BROWN: I am actually allowed by Coast
19 Guard certification, I am allowed to carry a total
20 of 20. We cut ours off at 13, you, guys, 13
21 passengers plus crew. So that is 13 plus myself,
22 and two deck hands. At least one.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So you are talking
24 about 16 people maximum you carry.

25 MR. BROWN: Yes.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

2 MR. BROWN: Plus, ready, doing crabbing
3 season, we also have six crab pots aboard that we
4 dump on the way either up or down. So, that is an
5 additional, if you are talking weight.

6 MR. WOODY: How many crab pots?

7 MR. BROWN: Six.

8 MR. WOODY: Six. Okay.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When were the break
10 waters felt, do you know? You say went right in, I
11 mean, we are talking about five years ago, 10 years
12 ago, 20?

13 MR. BROWN: Oh --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I mean, it doesn't
15 have to be exact.

16 MR. BROWN: You know, I would love to be
17 able to tell you, I mean, Don Bacon has, I know that
18 when I first started fishing here, there was no
19 south jetty. Now, and then in the, you, guys, I
20 don't know.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is okay.

22 MR. BROWN: I don't know.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can probably find
24 out.

25 You said you he powered down and he powered

1 back up. Can you hear that, did you see it?

2 MR. BROWN: I can kind of see.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can see it.

4 MR. BROWN: I can kind of see him, what you
5 do is you, if you power hard, up and over and
6 through, you come down with a crash, okay. So, if
7 you power up, and you get your nose through that,
8 and then you just kind of power back just a little
9 bit, it will roll underneath you and you will just
10 stay there and you will slowly go down on the back
11 side of that.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: Okay. And I could just kind of
14 see him do that. Okay. I have been on that throttle
15 enough times, I know what --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

17 MR. BROWN: -- that is.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Do you
19 remember what time it was about?

20 MR. BROWN: Yes, 7:18.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Seven, eighteen, when
22 he just started to stick his nose out or when he was
23 --

24 MR. BROWN: Seven eighteen when I looked at
25 my phone. I don't know --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is when you
2 called your son, first?

3 MR. BROWN: Probably.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am going to ask
5 you a few questions and they are not meant to
6 insult, they are not meant to hurt. We certainly
7 don't want to, we just want to figure this out.

8 You say you knew this captain, Doug, very
9 well, right?

10 MR. BROWN: Yes.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was his physical
12 condition like?

13 MR. BROWN: You mean as far as --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, he was 66,
15 correct?

16 MR. BROWN: Right.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We all get old and
18 our reactions slow down or our eyesight gets worse..

19 MR. BROWN: Right, right.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did he have a heart
21 condition, anything you know of which may --

22 MR. BROWN: I know that, the only thing that
23 I can even think of is three or four years ago he
24 had a little spot of cancer on his face. And I
25 think they got that. That is all.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

2 MR. BROWN: I mean, he fishes a lot in
3 Mexico in the winter time. I think physically he
4 was pretty good. Okay. Can I ask a question? Look
5 at this pretty face, I didn't shave this morning,
6 but I didn't know I was going to have an audience
7 here. How old am I?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I never guess ages.

9 MR. BROWN: How old am I?

10 MR. WOODY: I can't be sure. I, I, 68?

11 MR. BROWN: No. I am 65.

12 MR. WOODY: Sixty five.

13 MR. BROWN: Sixty five. I taught junior
14 high school for 30 years. That is what makes you so
15 tough.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yep.

17 MRS. BROWN: He called 911 at 7:32.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nine, one, one at
19 7:32.

20 MR. BROWN: Okay. Okay.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excellent.

22 (Pause.)

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did they say you were
24 the first call?

25 MR. BROWN: No.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They didn't say
2 anything?

3 MR. BROWN: No, they told me I wasn't the
4 first call.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Someone else had
6 already called.

7 MR. BROWN: Yes.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

9 MRS. BROWN: You called Jeff at 7:20.

10 MR. BROWN: Okay. I was off two minutes,
11 right. Darn it. I guess the first time, the first
12 thing I looked at was 7:18.

13 MRS. BROWN: Yeah, I don't know. It might
14 have taken you that long to get --

15 MR. BROWN: Yeah, to get up punched.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And you said
17 his wife's name is Sharon.

18 MR. BROWN: Yes, Doug and Sharon Davis.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And how is she doing?

20 MR. BROWN: We went and saw her that day.
21 And she was, she was emotional, but she was okay.
22 She was, she would cry one minute and then laugh the
23 next minute, and then cry and then laugh. She was,
24 yeah, she was pretty upset, wouldn't you say, Linda?

25 MRS. BROWN: Yes.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, how long would
2 you, since you know her, before we should talk to
3 her? We don't want to come in like --

4 MR. BROWN: Oh, God, I don't know. There
5 were some reporters, a reporter knocked on the door
6 while we were there.

7 MRS. BROWN: There was one.

8 MR. BROWN: And the daughter-in-law was so
9 much more gracious than I would have been, you know.

10

11 Let me call her.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: Let me call her and ask, you,
14 guys.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And we can come back
16 tomorrow, if you want to, call her tonight maybe.

17 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I will call her and ask.

18 MRS. BROWN: The services are going to be
19 Thursday.

20 MR. BROWN: Thursday.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thursday.

22 MR. BROWN: Yes.

23 MRS. BROWN: And she has a houseful of
24 family.

25 MR. BROWN: And I don't know how she is

1 today as compared to, I mean, I am not as good today
2 as I was yesterday.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

4 MR. BROWN: I know that. But, I am going to
5 be better tomorrow.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

7 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I will call her and ask
8 her or I will go up and see and ask.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A lot of times it is
10 just we want to eliminate things and if we can just
11 eliminate physical condition, eyesight, medical
12 conditions, and that would help.

13 MR. BROWN: Yeah, yeah. I don't know, I --

14 MRS. BROWN: You mean Doug's.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Doug's, yes.

16 MR. BROWN: I just, I just know about me,
17 you know.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. And you
19 figure his wife would probably know better than
20 anyone.

21 MR. BROWN: Yes, and Linda knows, I am, I
22 complain about, about things, but she doesn't do
23 anything about it, so, she just let's me complain.

24 MR. WOODY: That makes you healthy.

25 MR. BROWN: I guess, I don't know.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is all I have.

2 MR. BROWN: Do you have anything else, you,
3 guys?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, I have got a
5 couple. I have got a couple of questions for you.
6 First of all, I just want to make sure that I
7 understand from what the position indication that
8 you were giving, you were in the parking lot, so you
9 are on the right hand side of the north jetty.

10 MR. BROWN: Right.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you were looking
12 down the range as it were of the right side of the
13 north jetty.

14 MR. BROWN: I will tell you exactly where I
15 was. Okay. You have been out there?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

17 MR. BROWN: Okay. Do you know where those,
18 those plastic sand bags are right here?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

20 MR. BROWN: I was standing right up on top
21 of those.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

23 MR. BROWN: And that is exactly where I was.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

25 MR. BROWN: Okay. And I could look right

1 down that jetty, right down the jetty, and I could
2 see when he went out of sight.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

4 MR. BROWN: For me, okay.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

6 MR. BROWN: Here he is out of sight, I can't
7 see him here, I can't see him here, but I can see
8 him here.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

10 MR. BROWN: When he pops up there.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So, he was
12 definitely to the north of the north jetty.

13 MR. BROWN: And not only a ways, quite a
14 ways.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Quite a ways being 50
16 yards, 100 yards?

17 MR. BROWN: Between 50 and 100, at least.
18 You, guys, he was, he was out here. He was out here
19 when that happened.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, he was out to the
21 deeper waterway?

22 MR. BROWN: Well, you know, most swells were
23 coming at you, I think he kind of had to maybe angle
24 in a little bit, but I keep thinking that once you
25 cross that shallow area there, that it deepens up,

1 but, you know, my perspective, looking at it from
2 here to here, I don't know how close he was this
3 way, but I know how close far he was to the jetty.
4 You know, I can judge that but I can't judge from
5 the surf line to where he was, how far he was.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure.

7 MR. BROWN: You know, I don't know if he was
8 in this way or out.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that is very
10 difficult because you are standing at the sand bags
11 there, the tip of the jetty is 500 yards down.

12 MR. BROWN: Yeah.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have got a height
14 of about five and a half feet above the top of the
15 jetty.

16 MR. BROWN: Yes.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The perspective
18 becomes very difficult.

19 MR. BROWN: Right. I would have liked to
20 have him be out here, you know, rather than where he
21 was. But, maybe he couldn't get there. Maybe there
22 was no way to get there from where he was because of
23 what was happening in through here. I don't know,
24 it is just, it is just something that you call as a
25 skipper, you know. You have to call them. I have

1 been there, you, guys. I have been both ways where,
2 where I have had some close calls that I hate. And
3 I really hated it when I only seven, first of all,
4 when I could only go seven --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

6 MR. BROWN: -- seven miles an hour, seven
7 knots, you know.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, when you are
9 making a run out the north hole there, typically at
10 what point in your mind are you thinking I am out of
11 all of this stuff, I am now beyond everything that
12 is happening on the beach. I am okay. I can start
13 angling out to --

14 MR. BROWN: Here is the green can, okay.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

16 MR. BROWN: Here is the green can. Normally
17 when I come, I am going to come up here. Okay. And
18 I am going to be this side of that green can, quite
19 a ways inside of it. And when I get there, man, I
20 am out of it. I am safe. It is going to start
21 deepening or anything that is going to come at me is
22 not going to have that much bump to it. I am going
23 to be able to go through it.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because you will be
25 far enough away from the middle --

1 MR. BROWN: Right, yeah, and it is going to
2 be deep enough there that it is not, that wave is
3 not going to be in the bottom --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- break.

5 MR. BROWN: Well, it might even break, it
6 might break, but it is not going to bottom out and
7 really be a hard break, you know, when a wave breaks
8 in, in two fathoms of water, as compared to a wave
9 breaking in five fathoms of water, it is a different
10 situation totally, because, because of the physics
11 of it. Okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

13 MR. BROWN: But, yeah, and he may have, he
14 may have been anywhere from here to in a lot closer,
15 I don't know. I can't tell that. I just know he
16 wasn't in the right spot at the right time.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Okay.

18 MR. WOODY: How was his track compared to
19 say the D&D, could you make any kind of comparison
20 there?

21 MR. BROWN: Yes, I can.

22 MR. WOODY: Okay.

23 MR. BROWN: Pretty close.

24 MR. WOODY: Okay.

25 MR. BROWN: Pretty close. I mean, pretty

1 close to the way the D&D went. The D&D took that
2 same path, you know, kind of up and over, up and
3 over and up and over, you know. I think it was just
4 very, very, very close. The same path that he was
5 taking. It was just a lot bigger wave set right at
6 that time.

7 MR. WOODY: The D&D, like you say, kind of,
8 I guess to avoid swells, avoid swells -- the waves.

9 MR. BROWN: Well, you know when a well is
10 coming to you, you know.

11 MR. WOODY: Yeah.

12 MR. BROWN: I mean, you just kind of turn it
13 into and up and over it and go on, go up and over it
14 and --

15 MR. WOODY: Yes.

16 MR. BROWN: -- up and over it.

17 MR. WOODY: Okay.

18 MR. BROWN: And that is what he was doing.

19 Okay.

20 MR. WOODY: Okay.

21 MR. BROWN: And I, there might have even
22 been a little fuzz in the white water on some of
23 those that he was up and over, but, as soon as he
24 got out here, I stopped watching him, you know, he
25 was out. He was safe. And I was watching Doug. I

1 was watching to see what he was doing.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said you have had
3 scary moments out there, too.

4 MR. BROWN: Yes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I mean, do you reach
6 a point there is when you said this double digit --
7 You used to try it with double digit in the past?

8 MR. BROWN: Yes, that was, that was hard,
9 yes.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

11 MR. BROWN: Yeah, there were times in the
12 past when I went, it didn't make any difference.
13 But, you know, what I always tell my people now,
14 okay, when your boat is paid for, it is a lot
15 different perspective. When you don't owe anybody
16 any money, it is totally a different perspective you
17 are looking at, you know. And I don't care what
18 anyone says, that is what it boils down to. It
19 boils down to that money line. And I mean, this
20 weekend, we threw away \$2,000.00, well, we didn't
21 throw it away, we just didn't receive it. Okay.
22 Anyway, but, hey, that is part of the business. I
23 don't know about you, guys, I don't know, we have
24 received 25 calls, maybe more, I don't know how
25 many, I don't know how many she fields that I don't

1 ever hear, but we have had people call us from New
2 York, all over the United States, you know, and
3 thank us for not going when it is rough, you know.
4 We base our whole business on fishing being fun.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

6 MR. BROWN: And if it is not fun, we don't
7 go, you know, I mean, we just don't.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It is a ridiculous
9 thing to do, if --

10 MR. BROWN: That is right.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Think about it and
12 you would -- and gross slimy things.

13 MR. BROWN: If I --

14 MRS. BROWN: It is -- I mean, if we have a
15 bunch of guys like you, you know, and have gone with
16 us for 20 years, you know, we know what to expect
17 from them and they know what to expect from us. And
18 I mean, every day it is a different scenario.
19 Different rain fall, or well or, you know, I mean,
20 it is --

21 MR. BROWN: The thing I always tell them is
22 this, you, guys, I say, you, guys, I would rather
23 have you mad at me right here, right here in this
24 office, then mad at me out there for going, you
25 know. And there have been times when I have gone

1 out, headed south, get into an ocean that is a lot
2 bigger than I think it is, turn around, come back.
3 There have been times when I dropped my crab pots,
4 okay, didn't pick them up, turn around and came
5 home. And just thank God that I got back in, you
6 know, because it wasn't, it wasn't unsafe, it was
7 just ugly, you know, just sloppy, ugly, sloppy
8 stuff.

9 So, anyway, I don't know. Everyone runs
10 their offices different, you know, and this is, that
11 is why we have been in business for a long time.

12 MR. WOODY: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: You know.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could I ask you a
15 couple more questions about, about the time line?

16 MR. BROWN: Sure.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think the casualty
18 was about 7:18, something around there.

19 MR. BROWN: Yes.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You said you have the
21 phone and you said you called Jeff at 7:20.

22 MR. BROWN: Seven, twenty.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that was a call
24 saying the boat has turned over, get out here --

25 MR. BROWN: I said, I said, I said, Jeff,

1 the Taki Too just dumped, get down here.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

3 MR. WOODY: And Jeff is?

4 MR. BROWN: My son.

5 MR. WOODY: Your son, okay.

6 MR. BROWN: That is him back there cleaning
7 that salmon right there.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then the call
9 that you made to 911 was at 7:32, I think you said.

10

11 MR. BROWN: Seven, thirty two.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At that point, were
13 people coming up on the beach yet? Was anybody, had
14 anybody come ashore from the accident by the time
15 you called 911?

16 MR. BROWN: Yes, yes, they were. There were
17 people on the beach. I mean, Lance was already in
18 the water when I made that call, because I wondered
19 where in the world the ambulances were.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

21 MR. BROWN: I wondered where they were. Why
22 weren't they here. And that is why she was so busy
23 because I didn't -- Well, I knew the helicopter
24 couldn't get in that fast, but I knew that the EMTs
25 from Garibaldi could get there that fast. And I

1 wanted them to be on the beach right now, without
2 the river gloves on, with airways to shove down some
3 people's throats, that were laying there on the
4 beach.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. Okay. So when
6 you called 911 at 7:32, people were already coming
7 up on shore.

8 MR. BROWN: Yes.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

10 MR. BROWN: Yes, they were.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

12 MR. BROWN: Okay. From, from 7:18 to 7:31 or
13 32, how many minutes is that?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Fourteen.

15 MR. BROWN: Yeah, that is about right.
16 That is about how long it took them to reach the
17 beach.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is something
19 that Cindy with Survival is going to want to know.

20 MR. BROWN: Yes. That is about how long it
21 took them.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did most of, if you
23 could recall, did most of the people come up at
24 about the same time, were they staggered, did it
25 take awhile?

1 MR. BROWN: Here is the jetty, right here
2 and here is the beach line, okay. There were people
3 and that is over maybe, that might be 60 or 70
4 yards.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

6 MR. BROWN: And there would be a person
7 here, and then a little bit later you would see
8 somebody stand up here, and then somebody stand up
9 here, you know.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

11 MR. BROWN: And, and maybe see a body in the
12 surf. And I don't know which one of these was
13 Tammi. I don't know. Jeff does, but I don't, I
14 don't know. At least I think he would. I mean, Joe
15 was down on the beach and he grabbed hold of Tammi
16 and said, who are you, who are you? And he knows
17 Tammi as well as he knows his own daughter, okay.
18 And he wasn't, he wasn't seeing if she was lucid or
19 not, he was, he wanted information. He wanted to
20 know who this person was and he didn't recognize
21 her.

22 Anyway, yeah, they were spread out and they
23 were coming in but within, within a minute of each
24 other, you know, they were, they were all pretty
25 soon and then, and then life jackets started kind of

1 coming up through there, you know, so.

2 Anyway, the other policy that I have, you,
3 guys, is that if I have to put life jackets on
4 people to go out, we don't go, you know, we just
5 don't. That is a policy that I have. If we have to
6 have life jackets, and with our kids, the kids that
7 we have, we don't take kids that are under 12 years
8 old. And we issue them our own life jackets and
9 they are not Coast Guard certified or Coast Guard
10 approved, but they life jackets for kids that aren't
11 great big and bulky, you know, and they are good
12 life jackets.

13 But, all kids under 12, in Oregon, I guess,
14 I don't know if it is a federal law, but it is a
15 state law, that they have to be in life jackets.
16 So, we --

17 MR. WOODY: Do you own commercial vessels?

18 (Pause.)

19 MR. WOODY: You know, we don't want to
20 impose on Sharon, but certainly we would like to
21 talk to her.

22 MR. BROWN: Right.

23 MR. WOODY: Okay.

24 MR. BROWN: I will do it. But, I won't go
25 by myself, I don't go anyplace by myself, but I will

1 go. And just ask her.

2 MR. WOODY: All right.

3 MR. BROWN: Okay. And I will just tell her
4 that and she might even see you, guys, today, and
5 that would be nice if she could kind of get that
6 behind her.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have a card
8 that we can give him to pass to Sharon?

9 MR. WOODY: Yes, we sure do.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That way it will be
11 clear that it is not some, something screwy that is
12 going on.

13 MR. BROWN: Yes.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, you know, some,
15 yeah.

16 MR. BROWN: Okay.

17 MR. WOODY: And what we do, we work, in the
18 NTSB we have a party system, we try to get people to
19 work with us. Like we have the assistance of Ken,
20 from the Coast Guard, Ken Lawernson, and Peter Wood
21 from the Sheriff's office.

22 MR. BROWN: Yes.

23 MR. WOODY: They have local knowledge that
24 helps us a lot.

25 MR. BROWN: Sure.

1 MR. WOODY: And so --

2 MR. BROWN: Sure, anyway, I just know that
3 we have been --

4 MR. WOODY: Many of us --

5 MR. BROWN: By lots of media people and we
6 haven't talked to any media. We talked to an
7 insurance person that was dealing with the Buells
8 this morning, and we have talked to you, guys. And
9 those are the only people that we have talked to.
10 Media have a tendency to screw up what you say no
11 matter what you say, you, guys, so, and I just, and
12 I just won't deal with them. They will foul up no
13 matter how simple the statement is, they will foul
14 it up. So, and I am glad you, guys, have written
15 everything down, because everything that I have
16 said, is what I remember.

17 MR. WOODY: Yes.

18 MR. BROWN: You know, and I just, I am so
19 heart sick about this. And I guess, a little bit of
20 concern, well, a lot of concern, is what is going to
21 happen as far as the, the charter fishing industry
22 is concerned, you know. I remember after the Pearl
23 Sea incident on the Columbia River --

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I remember that some
25 years ago.

1 MR. BROWN: Oh, yeah, and I mean, I remember
2 it well, and I remember what it did to us as a
3 charter industry, you know.

4 MR. WOODY: Really.

5 MR. BROWN: Yes. I mean, it imposed many
6 more sanctions on it, safety wise, and maybe they
7 were good, but it imposed many more sanctions on us
8 than we had ever had before. Okay. And I would hate
9 to have a kid and I love the Coast Guard kids, I
10 have known them all my life, okay, but a kid from
11 Iowa that has been in the Coast Guard for four or
12 five years, and finally gets his station at
13 Tillamook Bay that he has wanted for years and years
14 and years, and he wants to, he is a good man, okay,
15 but I have more knowledge of this bar than anyone
16 here, okay, than anyone. And I run it safely and I
17 would have to have him be able to tell me whether I
18 could go fishing or not, you know. And I would hate
19 to have some rules imposed that govern my agency and
20 would be able to say, hey, you can't go fishing
21 today because of whatever, you know.

22 MR. WOODY: Yes.

23 MR. BROWN: See where I am coming from
24 there?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What do you think of

1 the rule requiring life jackets whenever you go over
2 the bar?

3 MR. BROWN: I hate it. I hate the rule. It
4 is a good one, but I hate it, okay. I think that,
5 well, you, guys, know how I feel. If it is 10 feet
6 or higher, I am not going to go. If it is a snotty
7 ocean, I am not going to go. If I have to put life
8 jackets on, I am not sure going to go. Have you
9 ever worn one of those life jackets --

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I do it all the time.

11 MR. BROWN: Do you? The ones that I have
12 aboard, same kind?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have one of those
14 like inflatables or those coats --

15 MR. BROWN: But, they are more comfortable,
16 yes, they are a lot more comfortable. I understand
17 that. I mean, I could wear those. Those would be
18 great.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't go near the
20 water unless I am wearing that.

21 MR. BROWN: Is that right? How well do you
22 swim?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good. But, I see
24 this stuff.

25 MR. BROWN: Yeah. Yeah. Sure. Okay.

1 MR. WOODY: You do feel differently.

2 Well, everything changes and wearing the
3 kind of life jackets that you have on your boat,
4 Coast Guard inspected, Coast Guard approved, are
5 they? Those are a bear to wear.

6 MR. BROWN: They are just so bulky.

7 MR. WOODY: And besides you don't want to
8 wear something that has somebody else has worn and
9 sweated in, you know, that sort of thing.

10 MR. BROWN: That is right.

11 MR. WOODY: But, we were just thinking, if
12 there is any kind of a lighter jacket, you know.

13 MR. BROWN: Comfortable.

14 MR. WOODY: Comfortable, you wear just going
15 across the bar. It wouldn't be as big story
16 problem, hopefully.

17 MR. BROWN: Yeah, and that is another, that
18 is another thing, yeah. I wish they could invent
19 something that would do that, you know. That was
20 affordable, that didn't cost \$2,000.00 each, you
21 know.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is the biggie
23 right there.

24 MR. BROWN: Yes.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because they have

1 inflatable type ones now that are Coast Guard
2 approved.

3 MR. BROWN: Do they?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But, they are
5 expensive and they are difficult to maintain and
6 they require a lot of work to keep them in
7 satisfactory condition.

8 MR. BROWN: Yes, yes. And you know, you
9 know, somewhere along the line you, guys, I know
10 you, guys, have to go, okay, but I want to try to
11 keep you as long as I can because you already have
12 cut into my day. Okay. I forgot what I was going
13 to say.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can come back and
15 talk to you. You have our phone numbers to call --

16 MR. BROWN: Call Sharon and --

17 MRS. BROWN: Okay.

18 MR. BROWN: -- and ask if it would be --

19 (End of tape.)